

A fine citizen will be missed — ✓

A few days ago Duxbury lost one of its finest citizens, an honored and revered statesman. Paul Arsenian passed away unexpectedly while on vacation



at the Jersey Shore. A tall and stalwart gentleman, whose presence loomed even larger than his frame with a quiet strength and

indefatigable energy, he guided and guarded his adopted town. Paul was not born in Duxbury; yet no one could have loved this town more. No one has toiled more tirelessly than Paul, for the love of a town, a community, and a way of life — albeit a political way of life.

Quiet conversations, but never a back room deal; patiently negotiated compromises were his stock and trade. For Paul, it was always what was best for Duxbury with partisan politics having no place in municipal governance.

Yet he loved the electoral process fervently, and volunteer government passionately. He encouraged many eager political neophytes to serve on appointed boards and committees or to seek elected office.

This past town election was

the first in thirty years where he wasn't running back and forth to the polls to capture the precinct turnout. For the first time in thirty years there was no candidate listening to Paul's incessant chant: "You've got to get to the phones; you've got to get your vote out." For the first time in thirty years, he was not waiting at Town Hall for the town clerk to read off the results. And, for all but two elections in those thirty years, he knew the outcome before the clerk tallied the votes. He was just that good.

A hip replacement that took too long to heal kept Paul from the last annual Town Meeting and from our town election. But, as many of you reading this know well, he continued to follow what was going on; still paying attention to the budget woes, the departmental priorities, and the funding requests for all those things that make Duxbury Duxbury but are not a line item in any department's budget. And, of course, he read his Clipper.

Paul was what many of us have aspired to be: a respected and respectful participant in a process that has preserved Duxbury's well-being. Paul will be sadly missed.

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